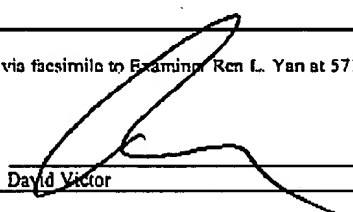


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: N. Aoyama Examiner: Cone, D.
Serial No.: 09/376,651 Group Art Unit: 2854
Filed: August 18, 1998 Docket No.: JA9-98-073
TITLE: FEED ASSISTANCE MEMBER AND A MEDIUM PROCESSING
APPARATUS

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is transmitted via facsimile to Examiner Ren L. Yan at 571-273-2173 at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on March 4, 2004.


David Victor

INFORMAL COMMUNICATION
(DO NOT ENTER INTO PROSECUTION RECORD)
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

On Tuesday, March 2, 2004, the attorney for Applicants and the Examiner held a phone interview discussing the claim rejections. The Examiner invited Applicants to make an amendment to the claims that the Examiner indicated may place the case in condition for allowance upon further review. Applicants submit herewith a proposed amendment to the claims including the amendments discussed during the phone interview. Applicants further submit a proposed amendment to the drawings to show a non-rotatable member portion, as discussed during the phone interview, to overcome the Examiner's objection to the drawings. Applicants propose amendments to the specification to reference the added drawing and add a reference to existing FIGs. 8 and 9.